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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicants** 

: Pazienza et al.

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Examiner

: To be assigned

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: To be assigned

## Certificate of Mail

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 11, 2002.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BEFORE MAILING OF A FIRST OFFICE ACTION

ON THE MERITS (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3))

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of MPEP §609 and 37 CFR §1.97 and 1.98, enclosed for consideration by the Examiner are copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO- 1449. The references were cited in a Search Report in the corresponding International PCT application No. PCT/US02/03783.

## TIME OF TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits according to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). Therefore, no fee is due in connection with this filing. However, should any fee be deemed necessary in connection with this filing, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and entry hereof.

Dated: September 11, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

Thelma A. Chen Cleland

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**Enclosures**